

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Thursday, 11 June 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday,
11 June 2020 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy Catherine McGuinness (Chair)
Sheriff Christopher Hayward (Deputy Chairman)
Simon Duckworth (Vice-Chair)
Deputy Tom Sleigh (Vice-Chair)
Randall Anderson (Ex-Officio Member)
Nicholas Bensted-Smith (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Keith Bottomley
Tijs Broeke
Karina Dostalova
Anne Fairweather
Marianne Fredericks
Alderman Timothy Hailes
Deputy Wendy Hyde (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark
Shravan Joshi
Deputy Edward Lord
Alderman Vincent Keaveny
Alderman Ian Luder
Jeremy Mayhew
Andrew McMurtrie
Wendy Mead
Deputy Brian Mooney (Chief Commoner) (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Alastair Moss (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Joyce Nash
The Rt Hon. the Lord Mayor, Alderman William Russell (Ex-Officio Member)
Alderman Baroness Scotland (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Dr Giles Shilson
Sir Michael Snyder
Deputy James Thomson (Ex-Officio Member)
Mark Wheatley
Deputy Philip Woodhouse
Alderman Sir David Wootton

In Attendance:

George Abrahams
John Absalom
Caroline Addy
Munsur Ali
Mark Bostock
Deputy Roger Chadwick
Alderman Emma Edhem

Anne Fairweather
 Helen Fentimen
 Sir Roger Gifford
 Alderman Alison Gowman
 Graeme Harrower
 Alderman Gregory Jones
 Vivienne Littlechild
 Natasha Lloyd-Owen
 Paul Martinelli
 Andy Mayer
 Adrien Meyers
 Graham Packham
 Ruby Sayed
 Oliver Sells
 Jeremy Simons
 John Tomlinson

Officers:

John Barradell	- Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Peter Lisley	- Assistant Town Clerk & Director of Major Projects
Angela Roach	- Assistant Town Clerk & Director of Member Services
Emma Cunningham	- Town Clerk's Department
Polly Dunn	- Town Clerk's Department
Greg Moore	- Town Clerk's Department
Kate Smith	- Town Clerk's Department
Peter Kane	- Chamberlain
Caroline Al-Beyerty	- Deputy Chamberlain
Michael Cogher	- Comptroller and City Solicitor
Sadaf Anwar	- Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Paul Double	- City Remembrancer
Paul Wright	- Deputy Remembrancer
Paul Wilkinson	- City Surveyor
Simon McGinn	- City Surveyor's Department
Carolyn Dwyer	- Director of Built Environment
Bruce McVean	- Department of the Built Environment
Bob Roberts	- Director of Communications
Yassar Abbas	- Communications Team
Richard Messingham	- Communications Team
Sanjay Odedra	- Communications Team
Damian Nussbaum	- Director of Innovation & Growth
Mary Kyle	- Department of Innovation & Growth
Vic Annells	- Executive Director Mansion House & Central Criminal Court
David Farnsworth	- Chief Grants Officer & Director of the City Bridge Trust

1. APOLOGIES

There were none.

2. **MEMBERS DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were none.

3. **MINUTES**

- a) The public minutes and summary of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 7 May 2020 were approved.
- b) The public minutes and summary of the meeting of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee held on 27 May 2020 were noted.
- c) The public minutes and summary of the meeting of the Projects Sub-Committee held on 27 May 2020 were noted.

BLACK LIVES MATTER AND TACKLING RACISM WORKING PARTY

At this point in proceedings, the Chair informed the Committee that she had received notice of a question under Item 11 concerning the death of Mr George Floyd and the response to this. Given the importance of the issue, she asked that this question and subsequent discussion take place at this point in proceedings.

Shravan Joshi proceeded to ask a question concerning the matter, in which he commended the City Corporation for having issued a statement and stressed the importance of recognising and owning the history of the City, including the colonial links, in order to understand the direction that should be taken moving forwards. He urged the Policy Chair to deliver a Policy Statement at the next meeting of the Court of Common Council, setting out work already underway to tackle racial inequality, together with plans for future activity, in order to demonstrate the seriousness with which this was being taken.

Responding, the Chair advised that she would be pleased to make such a Policy Statement and recognised that further work was needed following this. In particular, she referenced the need for greater training around unconscious bias, together with the proposed establishment of a Member/Officer working group to tackle racial inequality. The complexity of the issue and range of views were noted and she emphasised that a collegiate and constructive approach would be important.

A Member, also the Chair of the Police Authority Board, spoke to reference the Commissioner of Police's statement about the death of George Floyd, the worldwide response, and what needed to be done to address racial inequality within and beyond policing. In particular, he noted that action was needed to ensure that police forces reflected the communities they served. Commenting on the notable level of anger in public protests, the Chair urged Members to reflect on the nature of, and reason for, this anger, and to listen and respond accordingly.

During discussion, the following points were made:

- A Member spoke to outline the contents of an open letter they had sent to the Policy Chair, the Lord Mayor, and the Court of Aldermen. This letter followed many conversations with colleagues, family, and friends affected by this issue and outlined proposals in four key areas: governance structures and systems, education, policing, and business. He expressed his hope that the new Working Party would consider these proposals and define both measurable outcomes and timeframes for the implementation of these items.
- The Chair of the Establishment Committee advised that they had attended a BAME Network meeting to listen to staff concerns not just on the global issue, but also in relation to their experiences as employees of the City Corporation. They noted that a number of concerns and negative experiences had been relayed and urged that Members reflect on organisational behaviours and understand their impact on staff, in order to help ensure that the culture of the Corporation was as tolerant and fair as Members would wish it to be.
- The Chair of the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee advised Members of a review of statutes in the public realm, through which a number had already been identified that might cause offence or be considered problematic. She suggested that the involvement of the City Arts Initiative, which had significant experience on respect of considering elements in the public realm, would be beneficial. She made reference to recent work on recognising women in the City through statues and other memorials and ventured that there was a natural link to ongoing activity there, perhaps looking at the contribution of black and Asian women in the City. She also reflected on growing sentiment that statues might not necessarily be the most appropriate memorial format and that consideration around other forms would be welcome.
- The Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen advised that the Aldermen had met that morning to discuss this issue. There had been strong support for a Working Party and the need to listen to what was emerging from communities and take action, with it observed that this was a real opportunity for the City to take the lead and use its convening power to make a lasting impact. He added that the Freedom Applications Committee would be discussing how to use the Freedom to bring more BAME representation to the City. Work was also underway with Livery Companies to progress the issue of diversity within their organisations, including the Livery Committee having asked all Companies to sign up to a diversity charter. He stressed the importance of taking action now, whilst also considering comprehensive long-term change across the piece.
- It was observed that the Mayoralty was a powerful tool which could be utilised for change and it was urged that the City Corporation lead on this issue and make a real difference.
- A Member spoke to reference an article they had written in their capacity as Secretary General of the Commonwealth, which stressed the importance of

understanding that this was a critical moment in global history. The City Corporation should not underestimate the work that was required and she urged that any approach needed to bind Members and bring a united approach to action. She reminded Members of the need to appreciate the significant anger in public sentiment at present, particularly in response to symbols such as statues, when coming to decisions.

- The power of education was highlighted as a particularly important strand of activity in respect of achieving long-term impact. The Chair of the City of London Academies Trust noted the large number of BAME students at the various Academies within the City family, observing that there was a significant opportunity to use the City's educational bodies to ensure young people from BAME communities received a high-quality education, which would lead to lasting impact in respect of diversity of the future workforce of the City.
- The Chair of the Members' Diversity Working Party reflected on the experiences of that body and the importance of a more diverse and reflective Court of Common Council. It was suggested that the time might now be right to reconsider those recommendations which had not been implemented to date, with the new Working Party urged to consider them anew in the current context.
- Members expressed general support for the establishment of a Working Party as this issue required serious thought in order to establish a coherent plan of action; it would also be important that the Working Party identified specific and measurable goals, and worked at pace to deliver these.
- It was emphasised that the Working Party needed to listen carefully to the BAME voice and understand their experiences, taking action to ensure that people from all backgrounds felt like they belonged in the City. Diversity, and the creativity and innovation that brought, was the USP of the City and integral to its success.
- Members noted that the Working Party would need to look across a broad swathe of activity. A particular request was made for it to look at the current investment strategy and if changes were required in that area, as well as in relation to the City's cultural offering and representation.
- Notwithstanding the longer-term issues to be considered, it was urged that more immediate action be taken in those areas where it was possible. For instance, the current hiatus around events and receptions provided a timely opportunity to review and implement a revised approach to guest lists and improved diversity at functions.
- A Member emphasised that serious consideration would be required in respect of how to get people from diverse backgrounds in to senior and decision-making positions.

- It was noted that the BAME descriptor encompassed an enormously diverse range of communities. Much work was needed to support all groups fully and ensure that any approach was not too narrow or sectional.
- The direct correlation of actions or decisions taken many centuries ago on systemic issues today was highlighted, with it ventured that acknowledging and understanding these items would be crucial to
- Whilst welcoming the statement issued by the City Corporation in respect of Mr Floyd's death and the Black Lives Matter protests, a Member suggested that, in future, such statements should also remind people of the need to abide by the laws of democratic society and engage in peaceful protest. They also suggested that other issues of this type, such as the treatment of the Uighur people within the People's Republic of China, also be borne in mind.
- A Member observed that there was now considerable momentum to achieve real change and welcomed the City Corporation's recognition of this opportunity. Britain was a country with significant history and complexity which it should not be afraid to discuss constructively, and the Member urged colleagues to move forward with confidence and achieve a positive outcome for all.

The Chair thanked Members for their contributions to the positive discussion and made reference to the proposed composition and terms of reference of a new Tackling Racism Working Party, which had been circulated. She corrected an error within the proposed composition, whereby the reference to the Chair of the City Arts Initiative had been intended to specify the Chair of the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee. Members supported that change, together with the proposal to allow the Working Party to seek external expertise as appropriate. It was also agreed that expressions of interest in respect of service on the Working Party should be sought from the wider Court, with authority delegated to the Town Clerk, in conjunction with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Policy & Resources and Establishment Committees, to determine appointments.

RESOLVED: That:-

1. Approval be granted to the creation of a joint Working Party of the Policy and Resources Committee and the Establishment Committee.
2. The terms of reference and composition of the Working Party be approved, as set out in the circulated report, subject to the replacement of the Chair of the City Arts Initiative with the Chair of the Culture Heritage & Libraries Committee.
3. Authority be delegated to the Town Clerk, in conjunction with the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of the Policy and Resources and Establishment Committees, to determine appointments to the Working Party.

4. **COVID-19 RESPONSE**

Members heard an update from the Town Clerk & Chief Executive relating to the COVID response both at pan-London level and from the City of London Corporation.

It was advised that the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government, together with the Mayor of London, had established the London Transition Board, which would be responsible for co-ordinating London's response as it emerged from the lockdown and began to reopen its economy while controlling the virus. Members included chairs of major business, voluntary, community, and public sector groups.

In addition, a new London Recovery Board had also been set up, to oversee the wider economic and social long-term recovery picture. The Chair of Policy & Resources had been asked to join both Boards and it was noted that David Farnsworth also served on both, in his capacity as head of London Funders and Director of the City Bridge Trust.

5. **RESOLUTION FROM THE PROPERTY INVESTMENT BOARD**

The Committee received a resolution from the Property Investment Board which sought to highlight concerns about the end of the availability of the Public Works Loans for investment properties. This raised wider issues about the implications for local authorities in respect of control over property investment strategies and it was asked that representations be made to central government.

6. **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES**

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk concerning the annual appointment of committees.

Introducing the report, the Town Clerk noted that Members were asked to determine whether to proceed with the annual appointment of committees in July and, if so, to consider the voting arrangements proposed. Members were also asked to note the amendments to committee terms of reference that would be submitted to the July Court meeting, as well as to consider further proposed changes in respect of the Police Authority Board set out at Appendix 6.

The Comptroller spoke to clarify his advice in respect of balloting, as set out in paragraphs 36-40 of the report. Whilst it remained the case that any decision must be taken at the Court meeting itself, he was satisfied that an indicative ballot in advance of the Court meeting, through which all Members expressed their preferences, would be an acceptable mechanism to ensure that the view of the Court was known and that technical difficulties on the day were avoided. Recommendations would then be put to the Court for approval in a manner akin to how Ward Committee appointments were made, and the final decision would remain with the Court in session. Members supported this proposed approach, observing that it would be important to ensure that no Member was disenfranchised by the process.

A number of Members queried the wisdom of changing arrangements at this point in time, particularly given that almost half the year had passed and that there would now be an asymmetrical position with respect to the Mayoralty and Shrievalty, the current terms of which would continue to be extended. The possibility that the change might now coincide with a second wave of COVID-19 infections as lockdown restrictions eased was observed, as was the effect of potentially diverting officers from focusing on supporting businesses to reopen and getting people back into the City. Notwithstanding these comments, the Chair observed that the majority of Members wished to proceed with the annual appointments process and reminded Members that there would be an opportunity at next week's Court meeting to discuss and determine the way forward.

RESOLVED: That:-

1. It be recommended to the Court of Common Council that the annual appointment of committees for 2020/21 take place at the 16 July 2020 meeting of the Court and the provisions of sections 2-9 of the resolution previously approved by the Court, set out at Appendix 1, be revoked effective 12.59pm on 16 July 2020.
 2. It be recommended to the Court of Common Council that the annual elections of Chairs and Deputy Chairs and the appointment of sub-committees will take place at the first meeting of each Committee following the July Court.
 3. Officers be instructed to make arrangements for ballots to be conducted at the July Court meeting, as set out in paragraphs 34-40.
 4. The proposed amendments to Committee Terms of Reference set out at Appendices 2 to 5 (already considered by this Committee) be noted, and that the proposed additional amendments to the Police Authority Board's terms of reference be approved for submission to the Court.
 5. No change be made in respect of the provisions pertaining to the Chief Commoner, set out in Appendix 1.
7. **CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY GOVERNANCE AND ENGAGEMENT PLAN**
The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk concerning the proposed governance and engagement plans for a Climate Action Strategy.

RESOLVED: That the proposed governance route for the strategy, together with the proposed engagement plan, be approved as set out in the report.

8. **CITY STREETS: TRANSPORTATION RESPONSE TO SUPPORT COVID-19 RECOVERY - PHASE 2**
The Committee considered a report of the Director of the Built Environment regarding City Streets and Phase 2 of the Transportation response to support COVID-19 recovery.

Officers spoke to request an amendment to recommendation 9, which currently referred to approval "subject to receipt of external funding from Transport for London (TfL) and the Department for Transport (DfT)". It was clarified that an

application had been made to both TfL and DfT for funding to cover the costs of the phase 2 works; however, it was understood that the TfL funding available for COVID recovery works was oversubscribed so it may be necessary to make a bid for central funding in the event of any gap. Consequently, it was asked that the final line of recommendation 9 be amended to delete the word “external” and the words “from TfL and the DfT”.

With reference to recommendation 10, concerning tables and chairs, it was noted that there had been significant discussion on this matter at the Planning & Transportation Committee. Five principles had been agreed in respect of the grant of licences, viz.:

- To recognise the need to nurture a thriving economy in our City
- To put safety first
- No privatisation of public space
- Having regard to space required to queue outside premises
- Having regard to new or existing public seating nearby

Members were asked to endorse these principles. It was noted that a full report on this matter was to be submitted to the next Planning & Transportation Committee meeting on 23 June, taking account of these principles. Following a query, it was confirmed that the principles were in no particular order and no prioritisation had been applied.

A Member urged that priority be given early to planning for the use of outdoor space in the City, as this would be vital for the hospitality industry and affected businesses. The possibility of the Government bringing forward the date by which such businesses could re-open was referenced, with the consequent need to prepare accordingly.

It was also requested that future reports of this nature make reference to the Visitor Strategy, so that it was clear where the impact of any proposals on visitors had been assessed.

A Member spoke to highlight the link between air quality and respiratory illnesses such as COVID. Given the significant air quality benefits accrued over recent weeks, they welcomed the continued benefits emerging from .

RESOLVED: That, subject to the scheme receiving approval from TfL, Members:

1. Approve a sum of £1,048,744 as the design and implementation budget for the Phase 1 and 2 proposals noting that £154K of this budget is already spent to date.
2. Note that the total estimated cost of the whole Covid-19 Transportation project has yet to be determined given the scope of later phases and changes to Tier 2 and 3 streets are not defined.
3. Note Transport for London have indicated that funding approved of Phase 1, £116,500.

4. Note that we are eligible for a Department for Transport (DfT) grant of £100K which will be applied for immediately.
5. Note that a bid for the balance of the Phase 2 works is currently with TfL for consideration.
6. Note that for Phase 3 proposals a bid may be made to the COVID-19 Contingency Fund or for other central funds for additional measures to support businesses such as seating, greening and activation, as well as additional social distancing measures. External funding from TfL and central Government will be sought for eligible measures.
7. Agree the scope and type of proposed interventions for Phase 2 (section 7, paragraph 2).
8. Note the risks set out in the Risk Register (Appendix 2).
9. Agree to delegate approval for design, for making of Orders and Notices and related procedures and for implementation and operation to the Director of the Built Environment in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman of Planning & Transportation Committee and the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Streets & Walkways Sub Committee; subject to receipt of funding.
10. Agree that while social distancing requirements are in place Table and Chair licenses should be reviewed on a case by case basis by officers before being reinstated and that any decisions should be informed by the five principles set out by the Planning & Transportation Committee (to recognise the need to nurture a thriving economy in our City, to put safety first, no privatisation of public space, having regard to space required to queue outside premises and having regard to new or existing public seating nearby).
11. Agree to delegate authority to the Director of the Built Environment, in consultation with the Chamberlain, to make any adjustments between elements of the approved budget, provided the total approved budget of £1,048,744 is not exceeded.

9. **ALDGATE BID: CITY CORPORATION REPRESENTATIVE**

The Committee considered a report of the City Surveyor concerning the appointment of a City Corporation representative to the Aldgate Connect Business Improvement District (BID) Board.

It was advised that Anne Fairweather had recently been appointed as the BID representative for Nationwide and, consequently, wished to withdraw her name from nomination to be the City Corporation BID representative.

Members noted that Deputy Henry Jones had been involved closely with the BID process since its inception and, on that basis, agreed that he should be the City Corporation representative.

RESOLVED: That Deputy Henry Jones be appointed as the City Corporation representative to sit on the Aldgate Connect Board for the five-year term of the BID.

10. REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk advising of action taken under urgency procedures or delegated authority since the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and its content noted.

11. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were two questions:

Black Lives Matter

This question was taken earlier in proceedings, directly prior to Item 4.

COVID-19 Learning Loss

Tijs Broeke asked a question concerning the significant learning loss which was anticipated as a consequence of COVID-19, due to school closures. He sought in-principle support for the City Corporation to play a role in addressing this issue, as well as support from the Chamberlain in taking forward bids; specifically, through exploring with the City Academies the possibility of co-funding and establishing a pre-apprenticeship provision to support pupils at risk of permanent exclusion, as well as to consider additional funding for interventions to mitigate the impact of the learning loss through an increase to City Premium grants.

Responding, the Chair observed that the pre-apprenticeship provision was a complex issue and it might be precipitate to indicate support without more detail. However, she welcomed the suggestion that this be looked into as a matter of urgency. The Chamberlain added that the Education Board should be asked to consider funding options in the first instance and in the context of its priorities and submit a proposal for consideration; he would be happy to discuss with relevant officers or Members to help expedite this process. Several Members spoke to observe the importance of speed in this issue and welcomed the undertaking by the Chair and the Chairman of Finance to consider proposals under urgency procedures if necessary.

Given that the majority of students in City Academies were of secondary school age, a Member suggested that it might be beneficial to write to the Secretary of State for Education to emphasise the impact of the learning loss at this level, as well as the impact of the loss of support for vulnerable students beyond direct education, in respect of social safety nets and safeguarding in particular. It was suggested that providing schooling for even one day a week would make a significant difference for many children.

In response to a related query concerning the Tomlinson Review into funding and governance across the City Schools, the Chair observed that this had been somewhat delayed by COVID-19 but that the Chair of the Education Board was likely to be considering reviving the relevant Working Party and associated activity streams in the near future.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**
There was one urgent item, concerning the establishment of the Tackling Racism Working Party. This was considered together with the question on Black Lives Matter earlier on the agenda, directly prior to Item 4.
13. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**
RESOLVED: That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.
14. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**
- a) The non-public minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 7 May 2020 were approved.
 - b) The non-public minutes of the meeting of the Projects Sub-Committee held on 27 May 2020 were noted.
15. **DIGITAL SANDBOX COLLABORATION WITH THE FINANCIAL CONDUCT AUTHORITY**
The Committee considered and approved a report of the Director of Innovation & Growth concerning a proposed collaboration with the Financial Conduct Authority.
16. **BRIDGE HOUSE ESTATES STRATEGIC REVIEW UPDATE**
The Committee received a joint report of the Town Clerk and the Chief Grants Officer & Director of the City Bridge Trust which provided an update on the ongoing strategic review of Bridge House Estates.
17. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
There were no urgent items.
18. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED.**
There were no questions.

The meeting ended at 3.35 pm

Chairman

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